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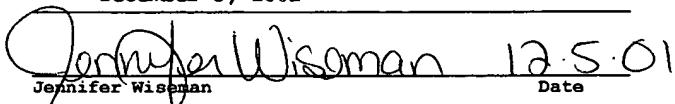
GP 3611/

PATENT

14/1DS
J. Smith
12/9/01

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December 5, 2001


Jennifer Wiseman 12-5-01
Jennifer Wiseman Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Douglas P. Campbell et al.
Serial No. : 09/371,776
Filing Date : August 10, 1999
For : INFLATOR
Art Unit : 3611
Examiner : D. Dunn
Attorney Docket : TRW(VSSIM)4295
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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GROUP 3600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, and in compliance with CFR §1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, pending applications, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is enclosed. Applicant(s) make no admission that the enclosed documents are prior art to the present invention.
2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a corresponding U.S. Patent is enclosed or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth on an attached sheet.

3. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):

- (a) Within 3 months of the filing date or date of entry into the National Stage.
- (b) Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
- (c) After the period set forth in 37 CFR §1.97(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
 - 1) A certification is given below,
 - 2) Enclosed is a check covering the fee (\$180.00) set forth in §1.17(p) for consideration of this Statement, or
 - 3) Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.
- (d) After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee. The required certification and fee is indicated below.
 - 1) Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) \$180, or
 - 2) Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

4. Certification (if applicable):

- (a) The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement. A copy of the communication is enclosed.

(b) The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry no item of information contained in the Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, fees underpaid, or credit any overpayment with regard to this Statement to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

6. Concise Explanation (if needed):

(1) Below is a Concise Statement of Relevance of enclosed non-English language document(s).

PATENT DOCUMENTS

Foreign Documents

Japanese Patent 10-157551

Relevance

Chapter [0004] discloses that a side airbag is distinguished from ordinary airbags in the fact that the airbag maintains its inflated condition for a long period of time, say, several seconds. Chapter [0027] discloses examples of approaches to prolong an inflated condition. One approach is to provide a first electric signal with a certain time lag to initiate a second inflation output. Another approach is to provide gas generating

material which is a mixture
of different materials
having different burning
characteristics or
particulate shapes.

Respectfully submitted,



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